

From: David Richard Larochelle
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 4:24pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to inform you of my opposition to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft case. As a researcher and a member of the security community I am extremely dismayed by the provisions of the settlement which allow Microsoft not to disclose details of their software which they deem to be security related.

For over 20 years it has been a widely accepted in the security community that "security through obscurity" does not work. Keeping the details of software secret does not make it more secure. Time and again it has been shown that malicious users are still able to find and exploit security holes in software even if the details of the software are not disclosed.

I am extremely distressed that these provision of the settlement disregard the accepted views of the security community. They will do little or nothing to increase security and provide Microsoft with a giant loop hole to avoid releasing software.

David Larochelle
----- End of Forwarded Message